

Message Text

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44

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9654

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 2496

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ECUADOR OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA

1. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS, ALEJANDRO ORFILA, VISITED ECUADOR FROM MARCH 24 TO MARCH 27, ON A TOUR OF SEVERAL SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING CHILE, BOLIVIA, PERU AND COLOMBIA. DURING HIS VISIT ORFILA MET WITH TOP ECUADOREAN LEADERS, INCLUDING THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS.

2. IN VARIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ORFILA EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. TRADE LAW (GSP). HE, ON THE OTHER HAND, ALSO ARGUED THAT THE RECENT VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TO LATIN AMERICA WAS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD BETTER RELATIONS.

3. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE, AND ORFILA'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE FIRST OAS BUILDING OUTSIDE OF THE U.S. WOULD BE BUILT IN QUITO WAS WELCOMED. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE ON THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH AN UNSIGNED COLUMN IN THE MARCH 27 ULTIMAS NOTICIAS DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY GENERAL AS A DYNAMIC AND CAPABLE MAN WHO WAS LIKELY TO REVITALIZE THE OAS.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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